Chapter 10. SOAP Headers

The SOAP envelope may contain a Header element that encompasses data outside the boundaries of an RPC (or other) style invocation. The header is an extension mechanism that can carry any kind of information that lies outside the semantics of the message in the body, but is nevertheless useful or even necessary for processing the message properly. Routing information might contain transaction identifiers, authentication keys, or other information related to the message's processing or routing.

Putting routing information in the SOAP header is useful when a message is sent to an intermediary, which in turn sends the message on to its final destination. In Chapter 9 we developed some proxy services that used another service to perform their tasks. In those cases, the client application was not aware that the service it was calling was actually a proxy. However, it's possible for proxy services to forward messages to specified endpoints or make use of other endpoints in the performance of their tasks. We'll develop an example of this kind of proxy, or intermediary, service.

Although SOAP does not currently specify any security mechanism, the Header element is a good place to encode authentication data such as usernames and passwords. Using the Header to store authentication data allows you to develop your service methods using only the parameters necessary and relevant to the method's task, and still gives you a mechanism to pass other related data to the recipient. The semantics of using the SOAP header for authentication are implementation dependent, but it's a reasonable mechanism in the absence of some other standard.

GLUE has considerable support for SOAP headers,¹ but Apache SOAP really lacks in that area. I'll walk you through a technique for working with headers in Apache SOAP client and services.

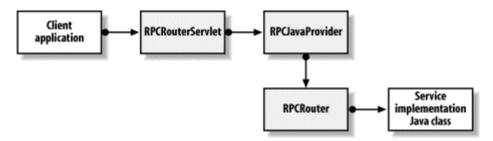
10.1 Apache SOAP Providers and Routers

The Apache SOAP engine does not provide direct support for working with SOAP headers. However, it provides just enough Java class support and functional hooks to let you add headers without too much pain. Most of the work involved will be on the service side. Basically, we want a way to gain access to the SOAP header from within the service methods we implement. But before we delve into any code, let's look at the way Apache SOAP handles and routes SOAP messages. Figure 10-1 shows the path taken by an RPC message sent to an Apache SOAP service. The objects shown in gray are part of the Apache SOAP framework, while those in white are the Java classes we've been writing throughout the book.

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 $^{^{1}\,}$ The GLUE documentation is more than enough to get you going with headers in GLUE.

Figure 10-1. The path from the client to the service implementation



Apache SOAP is based on Java servlets. When you send an RPC-style SOAP message, you're actually sending the message to the org.apache.soap.server.http.RPCRouterServlet class. It's up to the servlet to determine the appropriate provider class for the specific invocation. All of our Apache SOAP services so far have used the default Java provider. Here is the relevant part of the deployment descriptor:

```
<isd:provider type="java"</pre>
```

In every case, we've assigned the type attribute the value "java". This is nothing more than an alias for telling the framework that we want it to use the default Java provider, which is org.apache.soap.providers.RPCJavaProvider. The servlet uses that provider class, and all provider classes, to locate and invoke the service method. The default provider uses org.apache.soap.server.RPCRouter to route the message to the appropriate service implementation class. The router loads the service class and invokes the specified method using Java reflection. To specify some other provider implementation, assign the provider's full Java class name as the value of the type attribute.

10.2 Replacing the Provider and Router Classes

In order to make the SOAP header available to our service methods, we'll need to replace the one of own design. We our org.apache.soap.server.RPCRouter class and rebuild the Apache SOAP source tree, but that's a bit messy; we'd have to go through the process again for every new release of the Apache SOAP engine. Luckily, Apache SOAP makes use of a concept called pluggable providers. This means that you can plug in your own provider to be used with a given service deployment. To use your own provider, you must implement your own provider class. This is just the hook we're looking for. Creating our own provider lets us use our own router, which can pass the SOAP header to our service methods. For instance, if we implement a provider class called BetterRPCJavaProvider, we can associate it with a service deployment by modifying the isd:provider element in the relevant deployment descriptor:

```
<isd:provider type="javasoap.book.ch10.services.BetterRPCJavaProvider"</pre>
```

This element tells the RPC router servlet to use our new provider class instead of the default provider. That's exactly what we want. So let's write our own provider.

All providers must implement the org.apache.soap.util.Provider interface, which contains locate() and invoke() methods. The locate() method locates the service deployment information in preparation for the method invocation. The invoke() method invokes the service method, assuming that a preceding call to locate() was successful.

We don't need to reinvent the entire wheel here. The org.apache.soap.providers.RPCJavaProvider class does a perfectly good job of locating the service, so let's just extend it so that we can modify the invoke () method for our purpose. Here's the code for our new provider, BetterRPCJavaProvider:

package javasoap.book.ch10.services;

```
import java.io.*;
import javax.servlet.*;
import javax.servlet.http.*;
import org.apache.soap.*;
import org.apache.soap.rpc.*;
import org.apache.soap.server.*;
import org.apache.soap.server.http.*;
import org.apache.soap.util.*;
public class BetterRPCJavaProvider
          extends org.apache.soap.providers.RPCJavaProvider {
   public void invoke(SOAPContext reqContext, SOAPContext resContext)
               throws SOAPException {
      try {
         Response resp = BetterRPCRouter.invoke(envelope.getHeader( ), dd,
               call, targetObject, regContext, resContext);
         Envelope env = resp.buildEnvelope( );
         StringWriter sw = new StringWriter( );
         env.marshall(sw, call.getSOAPMappingRegistry( ), resContext);
         resContext.setRootPart(sw.toString( ),
                       Constants. HEADERVAL CONTENT TYPE UTF8);
      catch(Exception e) {
         if (e instanceof SOAPException)
            throw (SOAPException )e;
         throw new SOAPException(Constants.FAULT CODE SERVER,
                                 e.toString( ));
      }
   }
}
```

lifted for the code the method from invoke() the org.apache.soap.providers.RPCJavaProvider source code. The only changes I made appear in bold. The first change is to call the static invoke () method of BetterRPCRouter, which takes an instance of org.apache.soap.Header as its first parameter. We haven't implemented that class yet, but we will shortly; we need it because the default router, org.apache.soap.server.RPCRouter, doesn't allow us to pass the header to its invoke() method. The the in remaining parameters are same org.apache.soap.server.RPCRouter. One benefit of extending the default provider is that it does the work of obtaining the SOAP envelope inside its implementation of the locate() which it stores the envelope class variable (an method. in instance of org.apache.soap.Envelope). So all we need to do is pass envelope.getHeader() as the first parameter of the invoke () method of our new router class.

Now we can move on to implementing our own router. Once again, we don't need to write the whole class; instead we'll extend org.apache.soap.server.RPCRouter. We only need to implement the invoke() method, as the rest of the base class is fine. Our invoke() method

will take an org.apache.soap.Header as its first parameter. The trick will be finding a way to pass the header to our service class methods.

One of the nice things about having access to source code is that you can sometimes find noticeable. otherwise It turns gems that aren't out org.apache.soap.server.RPCRouter implementation actually anticipates that your service methods may be taking an instance of org.apache.soap.rpc.SOAPContext as their first parameter. Under those circumstances, the default router simply uses the rest of the parameters starting from position 1. You can try this if you like. Go back to any of the Apache classes chapters and stick **SOAP** service from previous an instance org.apache.soap.rpc.SOAPContext into the method signature as its first parameter, effectively pushing the rest of the parameters to the right. If you rebuild and deploy the service after making this change, everything will work just as before; the router deals with the possibility that you included this special first parameter, but it doesn't require you to do it. This feature comes close to fulfilling our need to access the SOAP header. The problem is that obtaining the header from the org.apache.soap.rpc.SOAPContext is a lot of work. Still, the mechanism is perfect for our needs. The result is a router that allows us to implement service methods that can take an instance of org.apache.soap.Header as the first parameter. Here's the code for the BetterRPCRouter class. Again, most of the code comes from the base class, with the modifications shown in bold.

package javasoap.book.ch10.services;

```
import org.apache.soap.server.*;
import java.io.*;
import java.util.*;
import java.lang.reflect.*;
import org.w3c.dom.*;
import org.apache.soap.util.Bean;
import org.apache.soap.util.MethodUtils;
import org.apache.soap.util.IOUtils;
import org.apache.soap.*;
import org.apache.soap.rpc.*;
import org.apache.soap.util.StringUtils;
public class BetterRPCRouter extends org.apache.soap.server.RPCRouter {
   public static Response invoke (Header hdr, DeploymentDescriptor dd,
                     Call call, Object targetObject, SOAPContext reqCtx,
                     SOAPContext resCtx)
          throws SOAPException {
      byte providerType = dd.getProviderType(
      Vector params = call.getParams( );
      String respEncStyle = call.getEncodingStyleURI(
      Object[] args = null;
      Class[] argTypes = null;
      if (params != null) {
         int paramsCount = params.size(
         args = new Object[paramsCount];
         argTypes = new Class[paramsCount];
         for (int i = 0; i < paramsCount; i++) {</pre>
            Parameter param = (Parameter)params.elementAt(i);
            args[i] = param.getValue( );
            argTypes[i] = param.getType( );
```

```
if (respEncStyle == null) {
         respEncStyle = param.getEncodingStyleURI( );
   }
}
if (respEncStyle == null) {
   respEncStyle = Constants.NS_URI_SOAP_ENC;
Bean result = null;
try {
   if (providerType == DeploymentDescriptor.PROVIDER JAVA | |
       providerType == DeploymentDescriptor.PROVIDER USER DEFINED) {
      Method m = null;
      try {
         m = MethodUtils.getMethod (targetObject,
                call.getMethodName( ), argTypes);
      } catch (NoSuchMethodException e) {
         try {
            int paramsCount = 0;
            if (params != null) paramsCount = params.size( );
            Class[] tmpArgTypes = new Class[paramsCount+1];
            Object[] tmpArgs = new Object[paramsCount+1];
            for (int i = 0; i < paramsCount; i++)
               tmpArgTypes[i+1] = argTypes[i] ;
            argTypes = tmpArgTypes;
            argTypes[0] = Header.class;
            m = MethodUtils.getMethod(targetObject,
                         call.getMethodName( ),argTypes);
            for (int i = 0; i < paramsCount; i++)
               tmpArgs[i+1] = args[i];
            tmpArgs[0] = hdr;
            args = tmpArgs;
         catch (NoSuchMethodException e2) {
            throw e;
         }
      catch (Exception e2) {
         throw e2;
              catch (Exception e) {
   result = new Bean(m.getReturnType( ),
                       m.invoke(targetObject, args));
else {
   Class bc = Class.forName("org.apache.soap.server.InvokeBSF");
   Class[] sig = {DeploymentDescriptor.class,
                    Object.class,
                    String.class,
                    Object[].class};
  Method m = MethodUtils.getMethod(bc, "service", sig, true);
   result = (Bean) m.invoke (null,
              new Object[] {dd, targetObject,
                              call.getMethodName ( ), args});
}
```

}

```
catch (InvocationTargetException e) {
      Throwable t = e.getTargetException( );
      if (t instanceof SOAPException) {
         throw (SOAPException)t;
     else {
         throw new SOAPException (Constants. FAULT CODE SERVER,
             "Exception from service object: " + t.getMessage( ), t);
      }
  catch (ClassNotFoundException e) {
      throw new SOAPException (Constants.FAULT CODE SERVER,
              "Unable to load BSF: script services " +
              "unsupported without BSF", e);
  catch (Throwable t) {
      throw new SOAPException (Constants.FAULT CODE SERVER,
       "Exception while handling service request: " +
        t.getMessage( ),
        t);
   }
  Parameter ret = null;
  if (result.type != void.class) {
     ret = new Parameter (RPCConstants.ELEM RETURN, result.type,
                              result.value, null);
  return new Response(call.getTargetObjectURI(), call.getMethodName ( ),
                             ret, null, null, respEncStyle, resCtx);
}
```

The first parameter of the <code>invoke()</code> method is an instance of <code>org.apache.soap.Header</code> that contains the SOAP header from the request envelope. Using Java reflection, an attempt is made to obtain the service class method, assuming that the method's parameters and their associated types are a direct match to those found in the SOAP body. If that fails, the code tries again, this time looking for a method that has all of the SOAP body parameters as well as a first parameter of type <code>org.apache.soap.Header</code>. To set this up, we assign <code>argTypes[0]</code> the value <code>Header.class</code>, and assign <code>tmpArgs[0]</code> the value <code>hdr</code> (the first parameter to our <code>invoke()</code> method). These arrays are used by the Java reflection mechanism when finding and subsequently invoking Java methods dynamically. As you can see, the vast majority of the code is unchanged. Much of it deals with finding an appropriate service class method, dealing with the possibility that a BSF script implements the service, ² and handling faults.

10.3 An Apache SOAP Service That Handles SOAP Headers

We now have a provider and router that can pass the SOAP header to our service methods, so let's go ahead and implement a service that uses the SOAP header. The urn:ProxyQuoteService from Chapter 9 is a good place to start. Its implementation hardcoded the physical address of the back-end service as http://mindstrm.com:8004/glue/urn:CorpDataServices; we'll ask the client application to provide that information as part of the SOAP header. Our proxy service defaults to a bogus address of http://mindstrm.com:8899/glue/urn:CorpDataServices if no routing data appears in

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² Apache SOAP allows you to implement services using BSF scripting. Refer to the Apache SOAP documentation if you're interested in that subject.

the header. You might use a similar technique if the service accesses a default back-end service but can also be directed to a client-specified service via the SOAP header.

Let's design our SOAP header so that it contains a single child element named targetAddress. This element contains the back-end service address that the proxy should use. The elements within the header may use the SOAP-ENV:mustUnderstand attribute with a value of "1" to indicate that the recipient of the envelope must understand the header element and properly use the data provided. The SOAP header sent by a client that demands the understanding of the targetAddress should look like this:

```
<SOAP-ENV:Header>
<targetAddress SOAP-ENV:mustUnderstand="1">
http://mindstrm.com:8004/glue/urn:CorpDataServices
</targetAddress>
</SOAP-ENV:Header>
```

So let's design our service to understand the targetAddress header element, but not any other header elements. If any other header elements appear with a mustUnderstand attribute value of "1", the service returns a SOAP fault. The new service will be called urn:DirectedQuoteProxyService, implemented by the DirectedQuoteProxyService class:

```
package javasoap.book.ch10.services;
import java.net.*;
import java.util.*;
import org.apache.soap.*;
import org.apache.soap.rpc.*;
import org.apache.soap.encoding.*;
import org.apache.soap.encoding.soapenc.*;
import org.apache.soap.util.xml.*;
import org.w3c.dom.*;
import javasoap.book.ch9.services.RemoteQuote;
import javasoap.book.ch9.services.ProxyQuote;
public class DirectedQuoteProxyService {
   static final String TARGETADDRESS = "targetAddress";
   static final String DEFAULTTARGET =
             "http://mindstrm.com:8899/glue/urn:CorpDataServices";
   public DirectedQuoteProxyService( ) {
   String getTargetAddress(Header header)
               throws SOAPException {
      String target = DEFAULTTARGET;
      Vector entries = header.getHeaderEntries( );
      for (int i = 0; i < entries.size(); i++) {
         Element el = (Element)entries.elementAt(i);
         String name = el.getLocalName( );
         String val = el.getAttributeNS(Constants.NS URI SOAP ENV,
            Constants.ATTR MUST UNDERSTAND);
```

```
if (name.equals(TARGETADDRESS)) {
         target = el.getFirstChild().getNodeValue( );
      else if (val != null && val.equals("1")) {
         if (!name.equals(TARGETADDRESS))
         throw new SOAPException ("MustUnderstand",
           "Service Doesn't Understand Header Element: " + name);
   }
   return target;
public ProxyQuote getQuote(Header hdr, String symbol)
                  throws SOAPException, Exception {
   String target = getTargetAddress(hdr);
   URL url = new URL(target);
   SOAPMappingRegistry smr = new SOAPMappingRegistry(
   BeanSerializer beanSer = new BeanSerializer( );
   smr.mapTypes(Constants.NS URI SOAP ENC,
     new OName (
      "http://www.themindelectric.com/package/" +
      "javasoap.book.ch9.services/",
      "Quote"),
      RemoteQuote.class, beanSer, beanSer);
   Call call = new Call( );
   call.setSOAPMappingRegistry(smr);
   call.setTargetObjectURI("XYZ");
   call.setEncodingStyleURI(Constants.NS URI SOAP ENC);
   String stock = symbol;
   Vector params = new Vector( );
   params.addElement(new Parameter("stock", String.class, stock, null));
   call.setParams(params);
   call.setMethodName("getQuote");
  Response resp = call.invoke(url, "");
   ProxyQuote quote = new ProxyQuote( );
   if (resp.generatedFault( )) {
      throw new Exception ("Service Call Failed");
   else {
      Parameter ret = resp.getReturnValue( );
      RemoteQuote value = (RemoteQuote) ret.getValue( );
      quote.setStockSymbol(value.get symbol( ));
      quote.setLast(value.get lastPrice( ));
      quote.setDiff(value.get change( ));
      quote.setTime(value.get timeStamp( ));
      quote.setVol(value.get volume( ));
   return quote;
}
```

}

The code is mostly the same as the QuoteProxyClass we developed in Chapter 9. The getQuote() method now takes an org.apache.soap.Header as its first parameter, and a String containing the stock symbol as its second parameter. Before constructing the URL, a call is made to the getTargetAddress() method, with the header passed as its parameter. The getTargetAddress() method returns either the bogus default address if no targetAddress element appears in the header, or the value of the targetAddress element if it does exist. We iterate over all of the header elements, looking for the targetAddress element. While we're at it, we look to see if any of the other header elements contain a SOAP-ENV:mustUnderstand attribute with a value of "1", and throw an appropriate SOAPException if we find any other header elements that we're required to understand. Throwing the exception results in a corresponding SOAP fault being returned to the caller. The returned value of getTargetAddress() is used to construct the URL. The remainder of the code is the same as it was for javasoap.book.ch9.services.QuoteProxyService.

Let's deploy the service, remembering to use our BetterRPCJavaProvider class as the value of the type attribute of the provider element. Here's what the deployment descriptor should look like:

```
<isd:service xmlns:isd="http://xml.apache.org/xml-soap/deployment"</pre>
             id="urn:DirectedQuoteProxyService">
  <isd:provider type="javasoap.book.ch10.services.BetterRPCJavaProvider"</pre>
                scope="Application"
                methods="getQuote">
  <isd:java class="javasoap.book.ch10.services.DirectedQuoteProxyService"</pre>
        static="false"/>
  </isd:provider>
  <isd:faultListener>org.apache.soap.server.DOMFaultListener
  </isd:faultListener>
  <isd:mappings>
    <isd:map encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/"</pre>
         xmlns:x="urn:QuoteProxyService" qname="x:Quote"
         javaType="javasoap.book.ch9.services.ProxyQuote"
        java2XMLClassName="org.apache.soap.encoding.soapenc.BeanSerializer"
      xm12JavaClassName="org.apache.soap.encoding.soapenc.BeanSerializer"/>
  </isd:mappings>
</isd:service>
```

Now let's write an Apache SOAP client application that can access the urn:DirectedQuoteProxyService. Most of the code should look familiar by now, so I'll just describe the new parts related to setting up the SOAP header. The class is called HeaderClient:

```
package javasoap.book.ch10.clients;
import java.net.*;
import java.util.*;
import org.apache.soap.*;
import org.apache.soap.rpc.*;
import org.apache.soap.encoding.*;
import org.apache.soap.encoding.soapenc.*;
import org.apache.soap.util.xml.*;
import org.w3c.dom.*;
import javax.xml.parsers.DocumentBuilder;
```

```
import javasoap.book.ch9.services.ProxyQuote;
public class HeaderClient {
  public static void main(String[] args)
      throws Exception {
      URL url = new URL("http://georgetown:8080/soap/servlet/rpcrouter");
      SOAPMappingRegistry smr = new SOAPMappingRegistry( );
      BeanSerializer beanSer = new BeanSerializer( );
      smr.mapTypes(Constants.NS URI SOAP ENC,
       new QName("urn:QuoteProxyService", "Quote"),
                 ProxyQuote.class, beanSer, beanSer);
      Call call = new Call(
      call.setSOAPMappingRegistry(smr);
      call.setTargetObjectURI("urn:DirectedQuoteProxyService");
      call.setEncodingStyleURI(Constants.NS URI SOAP ENC);
      String stocks = args[0];
      Header header = new Header( );
      String must = Constants.NS PRE SOAP ENV + ":" +
                                Constants.ATTR MUST UNDERSTAND;
      Vector entries = new Vector( );
      DocumentBuilder builder = XMLParserUtils.getXMLDocBuilder( );
      Document doc = builder.newDocument( );
      Element elem = doc.createElement("targetAddress");
      elem.setAttribute(must, "1");
      Text txt = doc.createTextNode("");
      txt.setData("http://mindstrm.com:8004/glue/urn:CorpDataServices");
      elem.appendChild(txt);
      entries.addElement(elem);
     header.setHeaderEntries(entries);
      call.setHeader(header);
      Vector params = new Vector( );
      params.addElement(
       new Parameter("stocks", String.class, stocks, null));
      call.setParams(params);
      try {
         call.setMethodName("getQuote");
         Response resp = call.invoke(url, "");
         if (resp.generatedFault( )) {
            Fault fault = resp.getFault( );
            String code = fault.getFaultCode( );
            String desc = fault.getFaultString( );
            System.out.println(code + ": " + desc);
            Vector v = fault.getDetailEntries( );
            int cnt = v.size( );
            for (int i = 0; i < cnt; i++) {
               Element n = (Element) v.elementAt(i);
               Node nd = n.getFirstChild( );
```

```
//System.out.println(n.getNodeName( )
                 + ": " + nd.getNodeValue( ));
        }
      }
     else {
        Parameter ret = resp.getReturnValue( );
        ProxyQuote value = (ProxyQuote)ret.getValue( );
        System.out.println("Symbol:
                                       " + value.getStockSymbol( ) +
                  "\nLast Price: " + value.getLast( ) +
                                 " + value.getDiff(
                  "\nChange:
                  "\nTime Stamp: " + value.getTime( ) +
                  "\nVolume:
                                 " + value.getVol( ));
      }
   }
  catch (SOAPException e) {
      System.err.println("Caught SOAPException (" +
                     e.getFaultCode( ) + "): " +
                     e.getMessage( ));
  }
}
```

We create an instance of org.apache.soap.Header called header that we'll use to build up the header elements. The string variable must holds the qualified name of the attribute. We build the name using the constant Constants.NS_PRE_SOAP_ENV and Constants.ATTR MUST UNDERSTAND, with a ":" between them. This results in the value SOAP-ENV: must Understand. Now we'll have to work at the XML level, like we did when we developed custom fault detail entries in Chapter 7. We take the same approach here, except that we don't need to build the SOAP-ENV: Header element; that's taken care of by the org.apache.soap. Header class. We only need to build the child entries inside the header, so we create targetAddress as the first element of the document. Next we set the mustUnderstand attribute by calling elem.setAttribute(), passing it the must string variable as well as a value of "1". Now we create a text node and set its data to http://mindstrm.com:8004/glue/urn:CorpDataServices, which is the endpoint we're directing the proxy service to use. The vector of header entries is added to the header by calling header.setHeaderEntries(), and then the header is added to the call object using call.setHeader(). Now the header we set up will be included when the SOAP envelope is created. I ran this client application with AMX on the command line, resulting in the following SOAP envelope being sent to the service:

```
<SOAP-ENV:Envelope
xmlns:SOAP-ENV="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/"
xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema">
<SOAP-ENV: Header>
<targetAddress SOAPENV:mustUnderstand="1">
http://tokyo:8004/glue/urn:CorpDataServices
</targetAddress>
</SOAP-ENV:Header>
<SOAP-ENV:Body>
<ns1:getQuote
xmlns:ns1="urn:DirectedQuoteProxyService"
SOAP-ENV:encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/">
<stocks xsi:type="xsd:string">AMX</stocks>
</ns1:getQuote>
</SOAP-ENV:Body>
</SOAP-ENV:Envelope>
```